THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, APRIL 25, 1850

We have compiled from the reports of the daily papers, a full account of Senate proceedings last week, throwing in brackets such editorial explanations and comments, as our personal observa-

To Each Subscriber .- Don't forget, when you renew your subscription, to send a V, which will pay for yourself and two new subscribers.

To ADVERTISERS .- Don't forget that we can allow four columns for advertisements, and that the Era is probably the best paper for giving extensive circulation to advertisements, published in Washington city.

MRS. SOUTHWORTH'S STORY .- As those of our readers who dislike Fiction have probably paid little attention to Mrs. Southworth's story, we earnestly request them to read the chapter this week, on the first page. It is a powerful and painful exhibition of one part of a subject in which they are deeply interested.

THE ANTI-SLAVERY MEN OF KENTUCKY .-We hope nobody will overlook the two series of articles now appearing in our paper-one by CASSIUS M. CLAY, the other by JOHN G. FEE, of Kentucky. Kentuckians are apt to feel deeply and speak boldly.

THE FREE SOIL MEN OF CONNECTICUT, it would seem, hold the balance of power in the Legislature. Mr. Baldwin's term in the Senate will expire with this Congress, and a successor must be chosen by the coming Legislature, or the next succeeding one. Mr. Baldwin has proved bimself an honest and able friend of Anti-Slavery principles; and he has never been wanting in his duty to the cause of Free Soil. We hope that the Free Soil members of the Connecticut Legislature will see to it that his place be filled by a man equally worthy and faithful.

MR. CORWIN .- Mr. Corwin, of the House, recently made a Free Soil speech, which the Telegraph informed certain newspapers in the West was delivered by Senator Corwin. Other Western journals, noticing the mistake, comment with severity on the silence of Mr. Corwin of the Senate, construing it into evidence of want of fidelity in the present crisis. We regret that he has not yet seen proper to deliver his views, but we know bing to well to allow such an imputation to pass without repelling it. We believe Mr. Corwin is true on the Question now agitating Congress, and no doubt the country will hear from him, after the report of the Compromise Committee shall

MR. BENTON,-Mr. Benton has distinguished himself by the gallantry, the firmness, and consistency of his course in relation to the admission of California. His zeal in her cause and his present course have been attributed to the fact that one of her Senators is his son-in-law. It so happens that he manifested equal zeal for the territorial organization of Oregon, where no such motive could operate, and that the policy he now pursues dates long anterior to the election of Col. Fremont. It will be time enough to charge him with such petty selfishness, when he shall violate part from the policy in relation to the Territories attended the Clay Festival in that city the folhe has always pursued.

land, of Connecticut, made an admirable speech posed, and kept his room during the whole period last Friday, in defence of Free Soil, doing justice the Senate was involved in the struggle which finally to its advocates and to its enemies. We shall terminated in the triumph of the Pro-Slavery the Missouri Compromise line, but publicly

TERMINATION OF DEBATE.

Mr. Doty of Wisconsin has given notice of his

A SCENE IN THE SENATE.

Southern Address. Mr. Foote defended that nounced? By the oldest Senator-by a gentle-

same instant we observed Mr. Benton approaching the seat of the Senator from Mississippi. the Senate, faced about, and then, for the first time, we saw a pistol in his hand, ready, as we cited, appeared to be struggling to reach the Mishis coat, exclaiming in his loudest tones, " Let the assassin fire! I am unarmed;" and with the most cowardly the imputation that he had come armed to the Senate. At last, he was induced by his and Mr. Foote, who gave up his pistol to Senator

Mr. Foote explained that he did not make a practice of going armed-that he had never assailed any man with deadly weapons-that he had threat made by the Senator from Missouri some being in feeble health and of small stature, he had yielded to the advice of his friends, and armed himself, not for the purpose of assaulting any man, but simply as a matter of precaution against assault-that seeing the Senator from Missouri approaching him, he believed he was intending to execute his threat, and that he (Mr. Foote) had immediately left his place, taken his stand in the area, and drawn his pistol, merely to defend himself against what he verily believed,

Mr Benton reiterated that it was base and cowardly to charge him with wearing arms; he

never carried deadly weapons.

It was a most painful exhibition, one which we hope never again to witness in the Senate of the United States. The people of the whole nation, judging from the intensely indignant comments of the press, regard the transaction as a national

assassin; and there are cries for their expulsion.

either. Both had become somewhat excited by the events of the day; both acted on the impulse of the moment, under a serious misapprehension-Mr. Benton seemed to be under the impression that Mr. Foote had said or was saying something grossly personal. This was a mistake. Whatever may have been the intention of Mr. Foote, up to the moment when the interruption took place, no insulting word had escaped him. On the other hand, Mr. Foote believed, according to his own statement, that Mr. Benton was about to commit riolence upon him—and his conduct confirms his other emotion than that of alarm.

statement. He drew his pistol in self-defence, and we saw no indication of a purpose to use it, to assassinate his opponent. We do not believe

that he harbored any such intention. No deliberative body, however grave and dignified, is entirely exempt from these sudden out- articles in favor of the formation of a State Govbursts of passion; but generally, the best correcterment. The writer refers to a letter to Mrtive of the evil is, the deep mortification of the Skinner, from Senator Foote, strongly opposing outraged public sentiment. Violent remedies (Bedinger?) of Virginia. We learn from another would rather exasperate the evil, by arousing a source that the letter advised the formation of a

We trust that an event so humiliating to the urged total silence on the subject of slavery. whole nation, may not pass without its lesson to and a passion for invective, in the excitement of hinted, is thus confirmed. speaking, is very apt to run into inconsiderate Mr. Foote has done what he had a right to do. personalities, unless checked by calls to order. If not admonished, without any clear understandpose, he is sure to say things extremely offensive, and tending to provoke violence.

Is he alone blameworthy? Or, should we not equally condemn the conduct of the members, ing to induce the People there to abstain from all who, sitting calmly in their seats, and seeing action against slavery. clearly the tendency of his remarks, permit him to go on, till it is too late to repair the mischief his intemperate remarks? We have seen such speakers in Congress, men of kind hearts, but hot impulses, who would really have thanked a member for calling them to order, thereby preventing remarks which none would deplore nore than themselves in their cool moments.

THE COMPROMISE COMMITTEE.

The Southern Men, (Whigs and Democrats united, always excepting Mr. Benton.) by the aid of seven of the sixteen Northern Democratic members of the Senate, succeeded in carrying their Compromise Committee. To the credit of the Whigs from the free States, be it spoken, only two of them were consenting to its formation. These two were Mr. Webster and Mr.

Mr. Webster, on the first test question, when his vote, if recorded with the Northern Men, would have put an extinguisher upon the project of a Committee, recorded it on the side of Compromise. At later periods in the action on Mr. Foote's motion, when his vote could not affect the

result, he voted against the Committee.

We state facts: People must draw their own

Mr. Cooper of Pennsylvania canvassed that State for General Taylor and Free Soil, denouncing Slavery from the stump with extreme bitterness, pledging the Whig Party and himself specially to the maintenance of Free Soil. Since he has taken his seat in the Senate, not a word has fallen from him, not a vote has been given by him, that could betray the slightest opposition to Slavery or its extension. We understand that he was induced to give countenance, if not to pledge support to the scheme of a grand Compromise Committee; that on the day when that subject was to be brought up, and every Senator interested for or against the question was expected to be at his post, it being known that the proslavery and anti-slavery parties were to try their the principles he has always professed, and de- strength upon it, he left for New York; that he of Oregon, California, and New Mexico, which lowing day, making a speech in honor of the Great Compromiser, at that moment engaged in a mighty effort to put down the Wilmot Proviso-MR. CLEVELAND OF CONNECTICUT -Mr. Cleve- that on returning to this city, he became indis-

> the Lord be Lord, serve him; if Baal, serve him. We can understand Daniel Dickinson of New

York. He thinks the North wrong, and the intention to introduce next Monday a resolution | South right; he abominates the principles and to terminate debate the 1st of May, in Committee | policy of the former on the Slavery Question; of the Whole, on the California message, and on he likes those of the latter. What he thinks, he to. On any question concerning Human Liberty, you can predict his vote with infallible certainty. He plays no double game-he is open, thorough, Last Wednesday a transaction took place in unwavering, consistent in his support of Souththe Senate, which has excited much comment | ern policy; and of course, disappoints nobody. exciting struggle was going on between the friends | change, and act in accordance with his new light. and opponents of Compromise, Mr. Foote, who If he retains the opinions he proclaimed so had for the most part kept himself in the back | zealously during the Presidential canvass, let ground, rose to reply to some remarks of Mr. him proclaim them now. Did his constituents to say nothing, do nothing, vote nothing-to document and its authors, and asked, with indig- desert his post at the critical hour when the nant emphasis, "By whom was that address de- struggle between Freedom and Slavery was to be decided?

The fact that this scheme of a Compromis Committee originated with the Slaveholders, that hastening from the place where he stood, to the it was sustained by them unitedly, (with a single area in front of the Secretary's desk. At the exception,) that all the Northern men present, but five, opposed it, necessarily invests it with a Committee can have no more weight than a docuopinions of only one party to a controversy.

It may be said that the Committee in its organ supposed, to be used, should Mr. Benton ap- ization fairly represents the views of both secproach and assail him, as Mr. Foote seemed to tions of the Union. Far from it! Who consti think he would do. Mr. Benton was greatly ex- tute it? On the part of the South, six of its sissippi Senator, and at one time he threw open | their ultra pro-slavery opinions. They are, Whigs, Mangum, Bell, Berrien; Democrats, Mason, King, Downs-all representing extreme vehement indignation he denounced as false and Southern opinions. While on the part of the Democrats, Cass, Bright, Dickinson-every one except Mr. Phelps, opposed to the Northern view of the Slavery Question, and sympathizing with the Southern. And the Chairman of the Com-Of the Committee of Thirteen, then, the Chairman and eleven members are pledged supporters of the slaveholding policy of No-Slaveryweeks since—that, in consequence of that threat, Restriction—leaving Mr. Phelps as the sole representative of that large majority of the American People who are in favor of the Jeffersonian

To what consideration is a Committee so con

stituted, entitled ? It is a fact worthy of notice, that after all, the friends of this famous scheme were indebted to the courtesy of its opponents for the power to carry it into execution. The result of the balloting for Chairman was, 30 votes, and 4 blanks. The blanks, of course, were not counted, and the abundant and cheap. It may be hired for three choice, because a quorum of the Senate had not voted! To relieve the Senate from its ridiculous predicament, Messrs. Webster and Benton offered, if it was desired, to deposite their ballots, against the Committee, the Senate was enabled to execute its order to appoint one! And yet, a scheme so ill-supported, is to adjust this great question, and give peace to the country! But the friends of the Committee were subject to But we cannot sympathize with the violence of another mortification. The members having been denunciation heard on all sides. In one section chosen, Mr. Phelps rose and begged to be excused from serving. His health was poor-he in another, Mr. Foote is styled a ruffian and an | was opposed to the organization of such a Committee - he anticipated no good from it-his Great injustice is done both Senators. There views would not be in harmony with those entertained by it! Mr. Mangum entreated him, piteously, to withdraw his request-he was besieged on all sides-and Mr. Webster openly appealed to him to give them the benefit of his counsels. Mr. Phelps declined to withdraw his request, but was willing to submit it to the Senate-and the

> Mr. Benton remarked, while the motion of Mr. Foote was under consideration, that the appointment and action of the Committee would either create alarm or a laugh. In view of what has since transpired, the People will experience any ready been found profitable in California, which volume of over 300 pages—postage to any part of

MOVEMENTS IN NEW MEXICO.

The New Mexican, published at Santa Fe, in its number for January 17, and in an extra of the same date, contains two long and well-reasoned parties concerned, the just indignation of the the organization of such a Government, and to body, and the stern rebuke administered by an concurrent efforts on the part of Mr. Berringer Government, and all action restricting slavery revengeful spirit in the parties sought to be pun- Territorial Government, without the Proviso; but ished, and by provoking sympathy in their favor- should a State Government be resolved upon, it

It seems, then, that leaders of the slaveholding the Senate. That body has rendered itself re- party have been somewhat busy in the affairs of sponsible, to a great extent, for what has hap- New Mexico, laboring to prevent there the repened, by its connivance at personalities. An sult which has been reached in California. The impulsive speaker, with an active imagination, suspicion we have long entertained, and often

Believing it important to the interests of the South that no barrier should be erected in New ing of what he is about, without a malignant pur- Mexico against the introduction of slavery, he has not confined himself to efforts to prevent restrictive legislation by Congress-he has extended his operations to New Mexico itself, endeavor-

> This course of conduct is legitimate, and we trust that his example may not be lost. If there be influential members of Congress who are sincerely desirous of seeing free institutions established in New Mexico, let them neglect no honorable means of impressing the people of that Territory with their own convictions. It is not improbable that the struggle between Slavery and Freedom may be transferred to that countryand with them may rest the decision whether their soil shall be consecrated to Liberty or prostituted to Slavery.

> The writer of the articles in the New Mexican urges the expediency of forming a State Government, chiefly in view of the great division of sentiment in the States and in Congress on the question of slavery in relation to the Territories. He refers to the position of Mr. Benton on one side, that of Mr. Calhoun on the other-to the action of the Free Soil Convention that brought out Mr. Van Buren for the Presidency-to the fact that "a majority of the present Congress is opposed to the admission of any more territory, except with the prohibition of slavery.

What," he asks, "has been the universal le gislation upon this subject, from the days of the Missouri Compromise to the present time? Has what this has been the absorbing question? Has there been legislation of late years upon this sub-ject, that has not convulsed the whole country? And now as to this very Territory acquired by the treaty with Mexico, lying south of the compromise line, Southern statesmen, of both parties, declare to the world that they have the right to take their slaves there, and that it is the duty of the Congress to protect them in their slave property in this Territory acquired by the common blood and treasure of both the North and South. The moment that a movement is made in Congress to form a Territorial Government, the Northern Free Soil men proclaim that it alone can be admitted as free territory, that is, with the prohibition of slavery; and Southern statesmen have as boldly proclaimed that they would alone abide the Missouri Compromise; that territory north of 360 should be admitted free, and that all south should be received as the Southern States, with slavery. Now, am I sustained by the facts? Look at the whole legislation of Congress on this sub-ject—look at the last Territorial Government bill passed by the Congress. I mean the Oregon bill. Why was the Wilmot Proviso attached to that bill? It could have no practical operation as to that Territory; and yet we find this very question agitating the public mind at the time of the formation of that Territorial Government. Southern Congressmen submitted to the bill because prohibition of slavery south of the compromise line. Now, facts are stubborn things, and judging of the future by the past, what are we to expect? That Congress can establish for us a Territorial Government, as we ask it, silent on the subject of slavery, when there is a considerable portion of the territory that lies south of the com-promise line? No."

He then proceeds to argue that the only way condition of anarchy, and terminate the struggle in the States, is, to organize at once a State Gov-

It seems that Mr. Foote's letter against the formation of a State Government was forwarded before or during the meeting of the Convention held to determine the question of a Territorial Gov-South were made at the same time; and by another paragraph in the New Mexican article, we learn that different counsels emanated from the Executive at Washington :

"It is known," says the writer, "that Mr. Skinner, besides the Foote letter, brought with him the result of a conversation with the Secretary of State, who gave it as his opinion, 'that the people of New Mexico could not obtain from Congress a Territorial Government? He also gave it as his opinion, that the claim of Texas was sufficiently formidable to induce the people of New Mexico to send to Congress her Senators and Representatives to ote on this question, as well as Texas. This, we know, can only be accomplished by the formation of a State Government."

But, as the result showed, the sentiment of the people of New Mexico against slavery, (which is said to be decided,) and the influence of the Chief Executive, proved of no avail sgainst the power of the Slavery-Extensionists; who carried, first, the question in favor of a Territorial Government; secondly, the question against the Proviso.

The facts stated warrant the apprehension that the Slavery Party in New Mexico is really in the ascendency. And yet the New York Express, formerly advocates of the Wilmot Proviso, following now the lead of Mr. Webster, talk of the Proviso as if it were a mere abstraction-and as if Freedom in New Mexico were safe, without any such precautionary measure.

They profess to be confirmed in this view by the following letter from Mr. Smith, the delegate from that Territory, in reply to one addressed to him by Mr. Webster, who is seeking in every quarter to find some support for his new position. WASHINGTON, April 9, 1850.

To the Hon. Daniel Webster, U. S. Senate : DEAR SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, and reply to it with great pleasure. New Mexico is an exceedingly mountainous country, Sante Fe itself being twice as high as the highest point of the Alleghanies, and nearly all the land, capable of cultivation, is of equal height, though some of the valleys have less altitude above the sea. The country is cold. Its general agricultural products are wheat and corn, and such vegetables as grow in the Nortern States of this Union. It is entirely unsuited for slave labor. Labor is exceedingly or four dollars per month, in quantity quite suffi-cient for carrying on all the agriculture of the Territory. There is no cultivation except by irrigation, and there is not a sufficiency of water

rrigate all the land. As to the existence, at present, of slavery in New Mexico, it is the general understanding that it has been altogether abolished by the laws of Mexico; but we have no established tribunals which have pronounced, as yet, what the law of the land in this respect is. It is universally coner a free Territory. I know of no persons in the as may be servants to gentlemen visiting or pass-ing through the country. I may add, that the strongest feeling against slavery universally pre-vails through the whole Territory, and I suppose it quite impossible to convey it there, and main-tain it by any means whatever.

I have the honor to be, with regard, your obe-To these opinions of Mr. Smith, no doubt honestly entertained, of the natural obstacles to slavery, we oppose the facts-that the system prevails amid the snows of Russia; that it had obtained foothold in Oregon, from which it was only excluded by positive law; that backed as they were by the Ordinance of 1787, the friends of Freedom in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, had a | sel, the charge of Chief Justice Shaw, the verdict hard struggle to keep down the advocates of the of the coroner's jury, &c. The report made phointroduction of slavery; that slave labor has al- nographically by Dr. Stone. The whole forms a was also declared to be fit only for free labor; and the United States, 26 cents.

that, if there be valuable mines as it is said there are in New Mexico, the same kind of labor will be found to be exceedingly remunerative there: and to his statement that the strongest anti-slavery feeling prevails in that country, we oppose the fact, that the counsels of Mr. Foote and his Southern associates proved more than a match for it, when, under their influence, a Territorial Government was decided upon instead of a State

was carefully abstained from. What effect the proceedings of the presen Congress, so far as the report has reached New Mexico, may have upon the People-it is difficult to say. Perhaps the State Government party may desire new arguments from the condition of things here, in favor of their position, and renew under better auspices their struggle for a State organization. If the question be kept open much longer, we should not be much surprised to see New Mexico coming to Congress and asking admission as a State-a movement, we apprehend, that would be very unpalatable to Messrs. Clay and Webster, who seem bent on throwing contempt upon the President's policy of non-action.

LITERARY NOTICES.

CUBA AND THE CUBANS. By the Author of Letters from Cuba. New York: Samuel Hueston. For sale by F

We observed, the other day, a copy of this work aid upon the desk of every member of Congress. It is a highly instructive book, presenting an interesting view of the present social, political, and domestic condition of the people of Cuba. It also contains ample statistics of the trade of the island. In an appendix the question of annexation is treated at large, and with much ability; the writer, who appears to be a native Cuban, urging the vast importance of the measure by a great variety of considerations.

WHITE JACKET; OR, THE WORLD IN A MAN-OF-WAR. By Herman Melville. New York: Harper & Brothers. For sale by Franck Taylor, Washington, D. C. Duo-

In this volume we have reality, not romance. In ninety-three brief chapters, the author paints as hibiting the condition of our navy, its discipline, the treatment of the sailors, &c.

Facts concerning the use of rum and of the cat-o'-nine-tails are detailed, which must arrest placed in the hands of every member of Congress. it gives a charer meight into the abuses prevalent tob Siarry Contien by partie sary remedies, than any work within our knowthanks of every American interested in the imharacter of our sailors.

THE KNICKERBOCKER, New York: Samuel Hueston. April, 1850.

The gossip of the editor this month with his readers and correspondents is better than all the rest of the magazine, with the exception of one or two poems. The Knickerbocker has merits of its own, and is always attractive.

BLACKWOOD'S EDINBURGH MAGAZINE. March, 1850. New York: Leonard Scott & Co. For sale by W. Adam, Pa.

The opening and closing articles of this number are purely political, the first treating of Civil Revolution in the Canadas, the last of the day or two past, when a milder air and constan Corn Laws, Free Trade, &c. The policy of the showers have ushured in the spring. The large, English Government in relation to the Canadas soft buds are starting out on the limbs of the s severely condemned. It is contended that, by elms of the Luxembourg, and the walks of its admitting their colonists to a representation in groves and gardens are once more lively with gay Parliament, making them equal partners with the | children, chasing hoops, decrepted old men resting people of England, in the Government, the an- on their gold-headed canes, as they stop to gaze sults. The literary articles are highly entertain-

PHERNOLOGY AND THE SCRIPTURES. By Rev. John Pier pont. New York: Fowler & Wells.

Mr. Pierpont in this lecture attempts to show the harmony of the psychology of Phrenology to extricate the people of New Mexico from their and that of the Scriptures. He presents several instructive and striking views, which we commend to those who are under the impression that Phrenology is infidelity in disguise.

> SARTAIN'S UNION MAGAZINE. May, 1850. Philadelphia. This number is excellent in its contributions and its embellishments. Mr. Godey's attempted disparagement of the magazine has promoted its circulation, if we may judge from the announcement of the publishers, that for the third time they have been obliged to reprint the early numhers of the present volume, to supply the increased demand.

GRAHAM'S MAGAZINE. May, 1850. Philadelphia Among the contributors to the May number, we notice George D. Prentiss, W. H. C. Hosmer, and other well-known writers. The proprietors announce that their writers and artists are preparing for the production of "a most glorious number for July-the first number of the new volume"-and that the leading plate in it will be JENNY LIND, the world-renowned singer. The enterprise of the publishers is worthy of all

METHODIST QUARTERLY REVIEW. April, 1850. J. Me This certainly is one of the best quarterlies in the country. With enough of denominational matter to commend it to the body of which it is and its distinguished liberality entitle it to the the New York Tribune, and other Whig Journals, respect and patronage of the public at large. Some of the articles in the number are quite elaborate, and all may be read with profit.

Tyson, M. D. New York: D. Appleton & Co. For sale by R. Farnham, Pa. avenue, Washington.

Dr. Tyson furnishes a sufficiently minute acthe Isthmus, and of his residence in that country, the whole occupying not quite a year.

There is nothing very novel in the Diary, but t contains practical suggestions that it would be well for California adventurers to attend to. The Doctor does not present a glowing picture of fortune-hunting in the gold diggings.

THE NORTH BRITISH REVIEW. February, 1850. New York: Leonard Scott & Co. For sale by W. Adam, Pa. avenue, Washington.

The North British Review does not offer very tempting table of contents in this number. The majority of the topics discussed are of local or technical interest. We give the running titles of the articles: Lord Cockburn's Letter to the Lord Provost; Rushkin's Seven Lamps of Architecture ; Pope Joan ; Southey's Life and Correspondence; Muller's Treatise on Sin; Miller's Footprints of the Creator; Scottish National Education; the Army and its Officers; Stuart Wortley's Marriage Bill.

HUMB'S HISTORY, Vol. V. The Harpers. For sale by

We have received Vol. V of this republication The sixth and last volume, we understand, has been issued. It is a remarkably neat, convenient, and cheap edition, of a work of great and enduring merit, costing, we are told, but forty cents a volume! The Methodist Quarterly Review says, that it is the purpose of the same publishers to print Gibbon and Macaulay in the same form and

We have just received the last volume

REPORT OF THE TRIAL OF PROPESSOR J. W. WEBSTER.

We have here a full report of the trial of Dr. Webter-the testimony, the arguments of coun-

KEEPING THE QUESTION OPEN.

"The Free-Soilers, the Wilmot-Provisoistscall them by whatever name you please—are op-posed to any scheme of compromise which is cal-culated to settle the agitating question of the day. They know that, in this event, 'Othello's occupation's gone'—that the means of riding into power upon this hobby would be denied to politi-cal aspirants—and that the Abolitionists would cease to be the make-weight in political contests in some of the Northern States. It is no wonder, therefore, that these factious fanatics are opposed to all compromises. They want the question kept open for future agitation. Hence, their op-position to acting upon the case of California, in conjunction with the Territories of Utah, New Mexico, &c., &c. Hence, too, the denunciations of the Abolition print in this city of the scheme of the 'compromise committee.' "- Washington

The Union greatly mistakes the policy and purposes of what it is pleased to term, "the Aboition print of this city."

We do not wish the Territorial Question kept open. Let it be settled at once, we say, provided it can be done on right principles. Nor are we anxious to separate the question of the admission of California from that of Governments for the Territories, unless for the very reason for which the Union is anxious to conjoin them-that such a conjunction will enable the Slavery-Party to defeat the Wilmot Proviso. Insert this provision in any bill, proposing to organize Territorial Governments, while it admits California, and we shall be satisfied.

The word "compromise," as used in American olitics, we detest; for it always means, the concession of some vital principle, the sacrifice of some right, to the demands of Slavery. We have always held, that the only way to stop the agitation about Slavery is, to oppose a uniform, unvielding resistance to all its pretensions.

We can tell the Union and the slaveholders whom it represents, how to put an end to the political anti-slavery agitation at the North. Let them consent that the Federal Government shall relieve itself of all responsibility for the existence of slavery within its exclusive jurisdiction. The People of the Free States who are partners in this Government, will then be released from all many distinct scenes of life on board a man-of- political support of slavery, and the subject will war. There is plenty of incident, but it is made | cease to enter as an element in their politics or to subservient to the very laudable purpose of ex- disturb the deliberations of Congress. The question will be reduced to a local one for the action of the States having exclusive jurisdiction over it, and whatever interest philanthropists in the free States might take in the matter, it would be out the attention of the nation. The book should be of the sphere of their politics. For one, when we recollect what a corrupt use has been made of

in our navy, and a better conception of the neces. what hollow promises have been made by heartless candidates for office, how little real sympaledge. It entitles its author to the warmest thy is felt by party politicians with the cause of human rights, how deplorably its interests have provement of the condition and elevation of the been mismanaged, how constantly the People are liable to be deceived by them, we deeply lament the necessity which has removed the subject from the sphere of philanthropy, and forced it as a question into Federal politics.

But, so long as the slaveholders shall make the question one of political power and consideration, they must expect an opposition as active and unrelenting as their own selfish ambition.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Paris, April 4, 1850.

To the Editor of the National Era: We had cold, freezing weather until within after the merry youngsters, pensi their books, and yonder, in the sunny side of the greenhouse, are half a dozen workmen reading the newspapers. My windows overlook this gar-den—an epitome of the gracity of Paris. The palace of the Luxembourg, memorable for its Chamber of Peers, but more so for the sessions of the Industrial Congress, presided over by M. Louis Blanc, is visible through the trees. In the distance, at the end of a long avenue of elms, rises, high above the surrounding houses, the dome of the Pantheon. In the vaults of that immense sepulchre of the mighty dead of France is the tomb of Jean Jacques Rousseau. A hand, holding a lighted torch, is protruded from the head of the tomb, and underneath is the inscription: "Though dead, he illumines the world." To the left rises the tall towers of old St. Sulpice, and to the right the glazed dome of the Observatory. Not a bad panorama of Franceworkmen, idlers, national monuments, national vanity, magnificent temples reared to a worthless priesthood and to science. What a world Paris is! and how delightful life is in this balmy climate, in this city, filled with all that science has invented or art accomplished! Here, too, is the political centre of Europe. The statesmen of other countries on the continent keep their faces turned toward the capital of France, as steadily prays. A Democratic zephyr from France makes fifty Cabinets chilly, and a stiff Socialist breeze throws half a dozen monarchs of shattered con-

stitution into a fever. Never did France occupy the attention of Europe more than now. In the light of the questions under discussion, the Greek difficulty becomes a mere matter of shutting up a few corn-dealers shops, more or less; the return of the Pope, a many, wranglings between half a dozen fairhaired, blue-eyed, lymphatic gentlemen, none of whom knows what he wants. The policy of every country in Europe is to a certain point influenced by that of every other. All Europe is united in interest as much as New York and Pennsylvania. But the order for a German Empire must be given from Paris. What can the German Democrats do against their Kings, until the sympathy

and influence of France are thrown on their side? Look at the vast importance of the questions now occupying the French People. The right of reunion, the liberty of the press, the bankruptcy of the nation, the independence of the clergy, the accord between the Executive and Legislative powers, the maintenance of the past majority, the change of the form of Government, the submission to the popular vote of the question between Republic and Monarchy. France is in a state of transition—she is passing from monarchical habits and ideas to republican ones; and her politics are of palpitating interest. Every stage of the change is interesting and worthy of study. We should watch it as the physician does the alterations in the physical condition of a patient under treatment for lunacy produced by intoxicating liquors.

Let us examine more closely the situation. At the date of our last, the union between the President and the Legislative majority appeared perfect. The contract of marriage had been signed and sealed by the President and chiefs of the majority. Nothing was omitted to give due solemnity to the ceremony. It was declared, with a flourish of trumpets, to be necessary to the safety of society, menaced by Socialism. Alas! nothing remains of this union. It has been swept away. The chiefs have been disavowed by their followers. At present, M. Bonaparte pulls one way; MM. Molé, Thiers, Berryer, and Montalembert, a second ; and the rank and file of the majority, a third. The bill against the press is seriously endangered. Amendments are demanded, and will

Two weeks ago, the provincial press of the Conservative party was clamorous for laws against the Socialist press, and sealous in the cause of the Cabinet. Now, every press in France denounces the Cabinet as awkward, ignorant, feeble, stupid, and irresolute. One exception should be made:

Le Napoleon, the President's Sunday paper, up-

It was hoped that the President would take the hint given him at the last election, and adopt a more liberal course. The contrary effect has been produced. He has chosen the course which ruined Pharoah, and hardened his neck against reproof. Last Sunday's number of Le Napoleon is more violent, puerile, and insulting, than ever. The Assembly is told, in so many words, that the union between it and the President "shall be durable on one condition : that the important bills submitted shall be promptly decided one way or the other." This is sping the tone of the uncle, but is mistimed and offensive. It will scarcely hasten the votes of the Assembly. Following this is an article directed to the different employees of the Government, telling them plainly that the slightest mark of want of zeal in political matters shall be the signal for removal from office. "By the necessity of things," says Le Napoleon, "every

one who is not openly for the cause of order, and the President of the Republic, is against it. Not to support, not to defend the Government with energy, is equivalent to abandoning it. The functionary who is neither courageous nor devoted becomes dangerous." As if the moral sense of the French nation had not been insulted enough, another article urges the speedy creation of a Minister of Police, who may organize the system of espionage through all France. This is destined to Carlier, the officer whose imprudent provocations contributed so much to the loss of the late elections. Another article declares that a few journalists are compromising the destinies of the country on account of their "private interests." The President has learned nothing by experience He seems more solicitous to gain the good opinion of the army than to do anything else—has gone round to visit all the barracks, distributed crosses to the soldiers, shook hands with some of them, held one or two reviews, and spared no pains to become popular with them. The incorrigible Socialists among them have been singled out and sent to Africa, by way of punishment. Indeed, this course has been pursued all over France, and a soldier who votes the Socialist ticket knows he does so at the risk of being sent to the murderous

climate of Algeria. The Cabinet is not so bold as it was. It fears lefeat. Several severe laws of repression lie in their portfolios, because there is risk of their being rejected. The fury of the aglice has been moderated, and the language of the Ministers not so insulting.

Thus divided and irresolute, the prospects of the Conservatives in the approaching electionfor we are to have a new one at Paris in less than forty days-are of the gloomiest character. The probability is that the Conservative papers, monarchist at the last election, will be decidedly republican at this.

The Socialist journals continue to be moderate and judicious in their tone. They are much encouraged by the faults of the Government and the result of the election at Sens, where the entire Socialist ticket for the municipal council was elected, and by that in the Department of Vosges, where the Socialist ticket for the Assembly was carried, on the 24th, by a majority of nearly seven thousand.

Let us now turn to something which concerns

AMERICA DEFENDED vs. M. THIERS. The French Moderates are led by their principles to a systematic depreciation of everything American. M. Thiers is noted for his attempts to discredit the United States. In one of his speeches on the law for Public Instruction he said: "Look at the tendency of heads of families wanttheir station, giving them Latin and Greek, and other things connected with the learned profes-sions, all so slightly that they were for the most part mere sciolists, knowing a little of everything, and nothing well. This state of things was de-structive to the grandeur of the country, and, if nation of the American nation, who gained their knowledge from the newspapers. It was evident that a social change ought to be effected in this respect." [Cries of Yes, yes, on the right.]

This gratuitous and insulting fling at our institutions aways the wrath of W. H. Fry, Esq.,

in Galignone's Messenger of the 20th of February. As this paper has produced quite a sensation in the English-speaking circles in Paris, being the subject of both extravagant eulogy and blame, it would not be proper to pass it without notice. In the outset of his article, Mr. Fry claims to speak, "not as an American but as a man" disclaime not as an American, but as a man," disclaims national pride, and that horribly abused Greek and Latin word 'patriotism,' which is a term convertible with colossal selfishness, with national robberies and murders committed for personal and general aggrandizeme. Having thus taken a high moral position, he agents his proposition, that "America, in essential grandeur, exceeds al other countries, ancient or modern." He then passes in review the general diffusion of educa-tion, the intelligence of the clergy, the great number of railroads, canals, and telegraphs, the facility of transport for merchandise, the ease and ors, the smallness of the army, the extent of the foreign commerce, the growth of art, the celebrity of many of the literary and scientific men, such as Franklin, Carey, Bancroft, Prescott, Irving, Wal-ter Johnson, and Audubon. This is followed up by extracts from the works of travellers, showing her institutions. The whole is wound up by a peroration, remarkable for its strength of style. Indeed, the answer shows plainly that its author is a man of ability, and rather eccentric withal. His piece would have lost none of its real value by the omission of such phrases as "Elastic de-mocracy is hell proof"—which startle the quiet people who read Galignani as they sip their morning's coffee. A few sentences from this rugge little phrase, the author gives us a specimen of "elastic democracy." for which he has not prepar-ed his readers. What! could we expect a gentle-man who has defended the cause of the laborer, and inveighed against aristocracies and tyrannies through two columns of close type, to turn round those of the same name in every other. But Paris is the centre and head of all. Certainly, the political face of Europe would be more changed by the formation of a great German Empire of forty millions, than by any change whatever in France. But the order for a German Empire must be may not be proof against the heat of the place Mr. F. wishes to test it in. But here is the passage alluded to: "Slavery in America, so much abused, is a heavenly destiny for the blacks. It has elevated them from barbarians, killing and killed. It hurls them on to liberty and Christianity. Texas will exclude it. The country of San cisco has excluded it. Nay, more: the American colony of Liberia, democratic though black, will within a century carry glad tidings to the heart of Africa. So, too, Lynch law is stupidly held in chronic dishonor. But it is the safety of the back woods. It puts to shame the late Draco code of England. It saved California in her first

> What a precious jumble of ideas here is to be what a precious jumple of ideas here is, to be sure! We would humbly suggest to Mr. F. that it is not in perfect taste to brand as stupid seventenths of his fellow-citizens, who hold Slavery and Lynch law in "chronic dishonor." And this too, in a defence of Americans! Fig. Mr. F., this looks like abusing your own countrymen under the pretext of vindicating them from the aspersions of M. Thiers. And do enlighten us on one point. How long do you suppose this heavenly destiny of slavery will be "hurling" the blacks on to liberty? Apparently, the rate of hurling is a very slow one, as the blacks have been hurled on to more than two millions and a half who are still enjoying the "heavenly desti-ny." What has connected in W. H. F.'s mind must be the analogy—that few enter either place. And then, Mr. Fry, if slavery is heavenly, why ish? There is a curious confusion in Mr. F.'s fact so roundly asserted, of the salvation of Cal-ifornia by Lynch law, is novel and startling. Other Americans, and certainly all the Europe-ans, were laboring under the illusion that the un-settled state of things in California, during the first year, the violences and munders committed

Le Napoteon, the President's Sunday paper, up-holds the Ministry, denounces the press as an extra-constitutional power, and attempts to prove the late proposition of M. Thiers, "The best of them is worth nothing." The President and his Cabinet seem to stand alone.

aristocratic dogs as they are! But they don't.
They are democratic though black. But there is no room to despair, for Mr. F. assures us that "within a century, they will carry glad tidings to the heart of Africa."—which means, we sup-pose, that the "heavenly destiny" of slavery will be extended over that continent, and will hard to prove that continent, and will have aristocratic dogs as they are! But they don't the inhabitants on to liberty and Christianity for

a few blissful centuries. It is useless to argue with this champion of America. He is from the free States, and a pretty fair representative of a class of gentlemen whose hearts seem always to be bursting with indignation at the aristocracies of Europe, and sorrow for the miseries of the poor. This sympathy with the poor of a foreign country is a cheap sentiment, gives room for eloquent declaration, and may lead to a wide-spread popularity. The true test of a man's love of justice, devotion to human with the approach is his and sympathy with the approach is his and sympathy with the approach is his and sympathy with the approach is his accessed in his sympathy. rights, and sympathy with the oppressed, is his conduct towards the poor of his own country. Is he content to walk there with the minority, to brave odium, to labor in and out of season for the downtrodden? When an American is brave as a lior in defence of human rights in Europe, and equally brave in attacking them in the persons of the oppressed in his own country, or not daring to open his mouth for them, he is a bird that always flies with the flock, and his claims to a devotion to right vary with the longitude, and are what Mr. Burchell would call fudge.

The author signs his full name to his article, and thus gives every American the right to say what he thinks of the opinions expressed. We hope that Mr. Fry's next defence will be more deserving of praise for its principles. His pen is an able one when employed in a good cause. ITEMS.

The proposition of M. Larochejaquelin to sub-mit the question of the form of Government to the people was quashed at once in the Assembly by the previous question. It is still discussed in the papers, finding few friends and many enemies. Its author is handled without gloves by all par-ties. He was a warm republican in 1848, and abjured his royalist sentiments in a harangue be

fore Raspail's club.

The budget has been drawing its slow length along for nearly two weeks. An economy of one hundred and forty-four millions on last year's budget has been proposed by the Committee, but this is barely reducing the budget to its old proportions. The receipts are still less than the ex-

The news from Rome is that his Holiness may return to Rome, Sunday in albiv. The official announcement is ambiguous, and leaves everything uncertain. He will return "if nothing new happen against the public security and tranquillity."
All intercourse is broken off between the Courts of Prussia and Wurtemberg. No danger of fighting, however. They understand each other too well for that. The Erfurt Assembly has taken no decisive step as yet. Speeches have been made and officers elected. Things may return to the basis of the treaties of 1815. They

seem to be tending that way.

Yesterday's session of the Assembly was a stormy one. M. Jules Favre, the brilliant orator of the Left, made a most vigorous attack on the Ministry. He summed up its policy for the interior in these words: "To spy everywhere, always, and everybody." In another part of his discourse, he exclaimed: "You are called the Cabinet of action, but you are only the Cabinet of the police. Your veritable chief is M. Car-

To-day the Assembly is discussing the law on transportation of political convicts. Yours, &c.

[CONTINUED FROM FOURTH PAGE]

SENATE PROCEEDINGS.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1850. The Vice President announced the members of the committee of investigation on the case of Messrs. Benton and Foote, as follows:

Messrs. Dodge of Wisconsin, Webster, King, Phelps, Rusk, Bell, Shields. Mr. Dodge, for personal reasons, was excused from serving; the requests of other members to be excused were refused.

During the morning hour, Mr. Benton moved to postpone all business before the Senate, and take up the California bill. Points of order were raised and discussed, un-

til the morning hour having nearly expired, Mr. Clay moved to lay the motion upon the table, and on this the vote was-YEAS-Messrs. Atchison, Badger, Bell, Bor-land, Bright, Butler, Cass, Clay, Clemens, Davis

of Mississippi, Dickinson, Downs, Foote, Hunter, King, Mangum, Mason, Morton, Pearce, Rusk, Sebistian, Soulé, Sturgeon, Turney, Underwood, Whitcomb, and Yulee—27.

Nays—Messrs Baldwin, Benton, Chase, Clarke, Corwin, Davis of Massachusetts, Dayton, Dodge of Iowa, Dodge of Wisconsin, Douglas, Felch, Greene, Hale, Hamlin, Jones, Miller, Norris

Phelps, Seward, Shields, Smith, Spruance, Walker, and Webster-24.

So the motion to lay upon the table was agreed [It will be found that during all this voting Messrs. Bright, Cass, Dickinson, and Sturgeon were always present, and always in the ranks of the Slavery party; and that Mr. Cooper of Pennsylvania, the famous Whig Free-Soiler, was al-

ways out of the way.] The Senate proceeded to the special order of the day, the unfinished business of yesterday. Mr. Foote. I simply rise for a purpose which I have no doubt will gratify gentlemen on all sides sincerely and profoundly desirous of action, practical action, on the proposition before the Senate in which the country feels so deep an interest. shall waive any feelings merely of a personal na ture, out of consideration to the exigencies of the hour. I design, therefore, saying not another

word; I only ask for an early vote.

Mr. Clay's appeal having been withdrawn, the by Mr. Benton.

Messrs. Mangum, Clay, and King, hoped that if there were any discussion, it might all be confined to the opponents of the committee, and amendments.

Mr. Benton. I never saw the Senate so harm

nious. I am entirely of the same opinion with the gentlemen who have spoken all around methe great encomium pronounced upon the Abbe Seyes, the great constitution maker, during the period of the French revolution. It was said by the wits or witlings, as the case may be, of that day, that he kept Constitutions in pigeon holes, and took down one or another as the occasion re-quired. But the point is, that one of those Constitutions contained a clause for a dumb Legisla-ture; one that should vote and not speak. He read it to a friend, and the friend exclaimed, "Ah, Monsieur Seyes, that dumb Legislature will immortalize you!" I do not know whether that part of the Legislature in France who were in favor of voting instead of speaking were able to stick to that part of the Constitution or not, but I hope we shall all be able to stick to it herevote and not talk. And now, Mr. President, we seem to have made some progress, and the way seems to have been entirely clear for me to make the motion which was suggested to me by the gen tlemen on the other side. I asked to take up the Califoonia bill; it was objected to because there was unfinished business. It was objected to be-cause the business of yesterday ought to take precedence. Good; I have nothing to say against that now. That business has been taken up; now

And now I act upon the suggestion of the gen tleman upon the other side of the chamber, and move, though it involves a double motion, to lay this question upon the table for the purpose of taking up the California bill; and, as the gentle men have given you a programme of the manner in which they will act, I will give you mine. My programme is this: That, if this bill be taken up, as I suppose it may be now, in conformity to the suggestion of the gentleman opposite, and after the reasons given for not taking it up have passed other side offer amendments which may be in the nature of adding further measures to that bill—of attaching other bills to that bill—why, sir, I have said enough already to let the Senate know that I am what is called uncompromisingly opposed to it; and, as I have given as many resons for my opposition as can be necessary, now, therefore, I am willing to content myself with the vote of "nay" on the different propositions to add other measures to the California bill when it comes up. Now, sir, my opinion is, that in this way we can faish the California bill in this sitting to-day, while the six gentlemen are here who ting to-day, while the six gentlemen are here who will be absent next week by order of the Senate. I therefore make the motion, which I think will accomplish that object, and I ask for the yeas and

The Vice President. It is moved that the question now under consideration be laid on the table, and on that motion the yeas and nays are

The year and nays were then ordered by the Jonate, and being taken, resulted as follows: YEAS-Mesera Baldwin, Benton, Bradbury, Chase, Clarke, Corwin, Davis of Massachusetts, settled state of things in California, during the first year, the violences and murders committed, had hindered the immigration of large numbers of peaceable and industrious persons. But it seems that everybody was mistaken.

The author's touch at the colony of Liberia—"democratic though black"—is worthy of the rest of the picture. Certainly it would be natural for those who had been foreibly excluded from the Heaven of American slavery to get up an imitation Heaven on the shores of Africa,